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2.1) Mr. Heston
S/P Mr. Joyce
DC

Return to EE

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Memorandum of Conversation

REVIEWED by J. Casi

Date 11/1/98

DATE: April 27, 1951
3:45 p.m.

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FOI, EO or PA exemptions

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SUBJECT:

Non-responsive info

PARTICIPANTS: H. E. John D. Kalergis, Minister-Counselor of
Royal Greek Embassy
Mr. Norbert Anschuetz, GII
Mr. J. M. Marcy, EE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY REDACTED DATE 3/1/18

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RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE 3/11/87

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COPIES TO: GTI - Mr. Anscheutz
DRE - Mr. Peters

American Embassy, Athens - Mr. Robert M. Jensen

A Mr. Ancheutz invited me to participate in his conversation with the Minister as the latter had indicated he wished to discuss Albanian matters.

The Minister asked three specific questions:

a. Whether or not it is still the policy of the United States Government to support the Balli Kombetar?

b. What is the United States view of King Zog and his activities?

c. What information have we concerning present activities in and with respect to Albania, particularly as regards those of the British agent McLean?

1. In reference to the Balli Kombetar, I informed the Minister that while, prior to the formation of the National Committee for a Free Albania, the United States may have appeared to favor the activities of that group, I was certain that that was only as a result of the fact that the Balli Kombetar was perhaps the best organized of all Albanian exile groups at that time. Since the formation of the Committee it had been United States policy, I believed, to support no particular group, but insofar as we took an active part in such matters, to encourage the cooperation and collaboration of all groups.

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(b)(1) (b)(7) under the Committee. When, at a later point in the conversation the Minister reverted to the question of the Balli Kombetar, remarking that the Greek Government had been particularly impressed with Hasan Dosti during his recent visit to Athens and wished to march "in step" with the United States in that regard, I commented that perhaps there was still not a clear understanding of our position in the matter: insofar as Hasan Dosti was chairman of the National Committee it could be anticipated that the United States would wish informally to support him, but that that support did not necessarily apply to his activities as head of one faction of the Balli Kombetar.

(b)(1) (b)(7) The Minister avoided discussion of Mr. Dosti's actual activities during his recent trip to Greece.

2. In regard to King Zog, I indicated that the United States' position was encompassed in my reply to his previous question; inasmuch as we do not recognize him as a monarch, he is considered merely the head of an exiled political group, the Legaliteti. As such, insofar as his activities tended to promote harmony and cooperation between the various exile groups, we would, I presumed, tend to support them--but insofar as they might tend to be divisive we would not. I commented that I was not aware of any recent activities of King Zog which would be clearly classifiable as tending in either direction.

(b)(1) (b)(7) The Minister commented that the Greek Government inclined, as a consequence of its past experience with Zog, to look upon him with some disfavor. He remarked that, as we probably knew, the Greek Government had together with the Yugoslav Government "assisted" Zog to his throne. Thereafter Zog turned around and favored the Italians rather than the Greeks. For this reason the Greek Government tended to support more democratic elements such as the Balli Kombetar.

(b)(1) (b)(7) 3. In leading up to his question regarding McLean, the Minister commented that he understood from Mr. Anscheutz that much of our information about Albania came from Greece and that therefore perhaps we were not aware of Mr. McLean's present activities. I commented that in fact I had not for some time seen any reports indicating that he was active: the most recent were a number of months previous at which time he was reportedly active among Albanian elements in Italy. The Minister then remarked that Greek information indicated that McLean was actively trying to promote cooperation with Yugoslavia. I retorted that so far as I had been able to ascertain, similar reports which we received some time ago had originated through confusion between the Albanian and Yugoslav McLeans. I personally had no knowledge that the Albanian McLean was actually engaged in such activities, though if he were I would certainly be interested to learn of it.

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44) More or less en passant the Minister inquired whether or not we could confirm McLean's presence in the United States. I replied that while I could not definitively deny it, I certainly was not aware of his presence, had seen no suggestion that he might be here or might be intending to come, and would personally be very much surprised if he were here.

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